# Little Rock Delegates Learn, Have Fun at 2013 NUSA

With the theme *Better Together: Strong Neighborhoods, Strong City,* the City of Minneapolis welcomed delegates to the 2013 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference.

Fourteen delegates from Little Rock attended the 38th annual conference. The delegation included first time NUSA attendees and veterans; it was made up of neighborhood residents as well as City staff.

Among the speakers at NUSA were John McKnight of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute Majora Carter, an Ecoentrepreneur; Peter Kageyama, author of For the Love of the Cities and Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Ryback.

Delegates also had the chance to participate in a variety of workshops, neighborhood tours and attend events in their honor.

The delegation included: Andre Bernard, Norm Berner, Randy Baldwin, Sandy Becker, Tiffany Blackwell, Willie Carpenter, Michael Deerman, Tressie Gilbert, Terry Lewis, Rohn Muse, Dwight Pridgeon, Kaye Risser, Rhonda Ross and Carrie Young.

Andre Bernard, the director of the Housing and Neighborhoods Department is a member of the NUSA Board and Assistant Treasurer of the Board. Several other City of Little Rock officials and residents have held leadership positions in NUSA over the years, as well.



Among Little Rock's delegates to NUSA were Dwight Pridgeon, Randy Baldwin, Michael Deerman, Norm Burner, Tiffany Blackwell, Rhonda Ross, Terry Lewis, Willie Carpenter, Carrie Yong and Tressie Gilbert.

The City of Little Rock has hosted the NUSA Conference two times – in 1996 and in 2010.

Little Rock's Pennbrooke/Cloverhill Neighborhood Association received the 2004 Neighborhood of the Year award from NUSA.

Next Year's NUSA Conference will be in Eugene, Oregon from May 21 – 24. Persons interested in attending should contact the Housing and Neighborhood Programs Office at (501) 371-4849.

Fundraising to pay for the delegation to NUSA goes on throughout the year through a variety of activities. While each of the delegates has to participate in the fundraising, the aim of fundraising efforts is to allow persons to attend without any financial barriers.

### LITTLE ROCK NAMED BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN US

The City of Little Rock has been named number one on *Kiplinger's Personal Finance's* list of 10 Great Places to Live for 2013.

The rankings place an emphasis on small and mid-size cities, considering metro areas with a population of less than one million with good jobs, reasonably priced homes, decent schools and access to great health care.

"We are pleased to receive this recognition from Kiplinger," said City Manager Bruce Moore. "Those of us who call Little Rock home recognize it is a great city for living, working and playing. It is always nice when a well-respected, objective source such as Kiplinger reconfirms this."

"This honor is a testament to visionaries who have worked to position Little Rock as a leading city," Moore continued. "As City Manager, I also want to thank the men and women of the City of Little Rock who work each and every day to ensure that residents and visitors alike have the opportunity to enjoy all that Little Rock offers."

"As Mayor, I am elated over being ranked Number 1 on Kiplinger's list of the 10 Great Places to Live for 2013," said Mayor Mark Stodola. Kiplinger has long been recognized as a leader in finance and forecasting and their ranking of Little Rock as #1 is proof positive that our community is fast becoming the next great American city in the South!

We have good jobs, an educated workforce, good home values and great natural and cultural amenities that highlight a wonderful quality of life. Three cheers for Little Rock!" Kiplinger noted: "With its scenic beauty, diverse community, cultural offerings and key employers—including the state government and two major universities—Little Rock has the amenities of a larger city but is small enough that residents feel part of the community."

#### Kiplinger's "10 Great Places to Live"

- 1. Little Rock
- 2. Burlington, VT
- Bryan-College Station, TX
- 4. Santa Fe, NM
- 5. Columbia, SC
- 6. Billings, MT
- Morgantown, WV
- 8. Ithaca, NY
- 9. Anchorage, AK
- 10. Dubuque, IA

"Each year we take a look at America's cities and choose those that stand out in a particular category—say, for raising a family, starting out after college or enjoying retirement," says Janet Bodnar, Editor of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*.

"The cities in this year's rankings have a manageable size combined with a wide range of benefits that allow residents to enjoy a convenient and comfortable lifestyle," said Bodnar.



## Who's Who at the City of Little Rock



### Mayor and

City of Little Rock Board of Directors

Mayor Mark Stodola

501-371-4791 mayor@littlerock.org

Vice Mayor Doris Wright, Ward 6
Director Erma Hendrix, Ward 1
Director Ken Richardson, Ward 2
Director Stacy Hurst, Ward 3
Director Brad Cazort, Ward 4
Director Lance Hines, Ward 5
Director B. J. Wyrick, Ward 7
Director Dean Kumpuris, Position 8

Director Gene Fortson, *Position 9*Director Joan Adcock, *Position 10* 

Office of the City Board

501-371-6801 board@littlerock.org

#### City Offices and Departments

City Manager's Office

Bruce T. Moore, City Manager

501-371-4510 citymanager@littlerock.org

Bryan Day, Assistant City Manager

501-371-4510 bday@littlerock.org

City Attorney's Office

Tom Carpenter, City Attorney

501-371-4527 tcarpenter@littlerock.org

**Community Programs** 

Dorothy Nayles, Director

501-399-3420 dnayles@littlerock.org

**Finance** 

Sara Lenehan, Director

501-371-4806 slenehan@littlerock.org

Fire

**Chief Gregory Summers** 

501-918-3700 gsummers@littlerock.org

**Fleet Services** 

Wendell Jones, Director

501-918-4200 wjones@littlerock.org

**Housing & Neighborhood Programs** 

Andre Bernard, Director

501-371-4849 abernard@littlerock.org

**Human Resources** 

Don Flegal, Director

501-371-4590 dflegal@littlerock.org

Information Technology

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501-371-4745 rfoshee@littlerock.org

Parks & Recreation

Truman Tolefree, Director

501-371-4770 ttolefree@littlerock.org

**Planning & Development** 

Tony Bozynski, Director

501-371-4790 tbozynski@littlerock.org

**Police** 

Chief Stuart Thomas

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**Public Works** 

Jon Honeywell, Interim Director

501-371-4475 jhoneywell@littlerock.org

Zoo

Mike Blakely, Director

501-666-2406 mblakely@littlerock.org

**District Court - Criminal** 

Judge Alice Lightle

501-371-4739 alightle@littlerock.org

**District Court - Traffic** 

Judge Vic Fleming

501-371-4733 vfleming@littlerock.org

**District Court – Environmental** 

Judge Mark Leverett

501-371-4454 mleverett@littlerock.org

# For emergencies, call 9-1-1, 24 hours a day.

For non-emergencies, call 3-1-1 to make inquiries regarding services, report problems, check the status of issues or obtain general information.

## LR Fire Department Safety Tips

Though school may be back in session and there have been some cooler days, the summer-like heat will be around for several more weeks

Grass fires can start any time. However warmer weather months have an increased chance.

With the warmer temperatures, there are more outdoor activities taking place, some of which could lead to fires. In addition, warmer weather and lack of rain lead to dried grass and vegetation which can serve as kindling for a grass fire.

#### Preventing Grass Fires

- Don't throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Dispose of them properly and make sure they are completely extinguished.
- Do not burn trash, leaves or brush outdoors when burn bans are in place.
- Even if there has been a recent rain, until a burn ban is lifted, there should be no outdoor burning.
- Keep a 30-foot "safety zone" surrounding the home clear of brush and cedar, especially for those living in a woodland area. Grass should be cut short in this area as well.
- For homes that sit on a steep slope, the safety zone should be increased accordingly.
- Stack firewood at least 15 feet and uphill from the home.
- Rake leaves, cut off dead limbs and twigs, and mow grass regularly. Cut tree limbs within 15 feet of the ground and remove dead branches that extend over the roof.

Parents should stress to their children the dangers of playing with fire. Many grass fires are started by children who have no idea how quickly flames can grow and spread.

#### Vehicle Safety

- Don't park cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach a temperature of more than 1000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a brush fire.
- Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine-powered equipment. This special muffler helps ensure that sparks generated by offroad vehicles, chainsaws and other equipment don't start wildfires.
- Check and replace spark arresters periodically.
- Maintain equipment in good working order.

#### Grilling Safety

- Homeowners who barbeque should maintain a 10-foot area free of brush and shrubbery around grills and propane tanks.
- Non-flammable screens should be placed over the grill (with mesh no coarser than 1/4 inch thick).
- Never leave a grill unattended.
- After use, place grill ashes in a metal bucket and soak in water.
- Keep a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher, or other fire suppression tools on hand.

REMEMBER – When a Burn Ban is in place, NO outdoor flames of any sort.

## LR CENT Update: Ground Broken on new 12th Street Station

On July 23, City and community leaders celebrated the beginning of a long awaited project to build a new \$11.9 million police station on 12th Street.

"This is more than a building," said Mayor Mark Stodola. "This is a reflection of the City of Little Rock's commitment to revitalize this area."



The new Little Rock Police Department station will serve as a key anchor along the 12th Street Corridor. Over the years, this central neighborhood has witnessed changes as many of the buildings have aged. A comprehensive plan has been laid out to combat those problems and this new police station is a part of that plan.

"We are using strategic public sector investments to attract private sector investments," said Ward 2 City Director Ken Richardson. "This 44,276 square foot multiuse building will soon become a reality."

Another aspect of the project includes improvements to the streetscape that will help set the stage for future improvements that are part of the award winning 12th Street.

Corridor Plan. Part of the funding for this portion is being paid for by a grant from the State of Arkansas through the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

"Today is a special day for 12th Street," said City Manager Bruce Moore. "It's a special day for this neighborhood and it's a special day for this City."

Moore noted that the building was being called the 12th Street Station not the 12th Street Police Station. "The future plans for this building include additional uses, so we wanted the name to reflect that this building will house more than just the Police Department.

East Harding – Adevco Construction is the construction partnership hired to building the new 12th Street Station. RPPY Architects designed the building and streetscape improvements.

Funding for the 12th Street Station comes, in part, from the 3/8 cent Capital sales tax approved by Little Rock voters in 2011



Architectural rendering of new 12th Street Station

## **Neighborhood Associations in Little Rock**

The City of Little Rock has over 190 neighborhood associations, property owners associations and community development corporations working to enhance daily life in neighborhoods.

Here is the current list maintained by the City's Neighborhood Housing and **Programs** Department. In the listing, NA stands for Neighborhood Association, POA stands for Property Owners Association, and CDC stands for Community Development Corporation.

To learn more about your neighborhood association, contact the Department at 501-371-4748.

#### City Wide

Coalition of Little Rock Neighborhoods Coalition of West Little Rock Neighborhoods **Neighborhood Connections** Southwest Little Rock United for Progress

#### Ward 1

Apple Blossom NA Capitol Hill NA CDC Central Little Rock CDC College Station Curran Conway NA Downtown Little Rock CDC Central High Neighborhood, Inc.

College Station

CONO - Community Outreach Neighborhood

Organization Downtown NA East Little Rock NA East Roosevelt NA Goodwill NA Granite Mountain NA

Hanger Hill NA

Hermitage POA and Crime Watch Association

Hermitage POA Hope NA Love NA

MacArthur Park POA Meadowbrook NA

MLK Neighborhood Heritage Enrichment Movers & Shakers Neighborhood Crime Watch Association

Oak Forest Acorn

Oak Forest Initiative Coalition

Oak Forest NA Pettaway Park NA Pine to Woodrow NA

Quapaw Quarter Crime Watch

River Market District NA South End Coalition South End NA

South End Neighborhood Developers Association

South of Asher SOA NA Stephens Area Faith NA Ward 1 continued Whitmore Circle NA Wright Avenue NA

Ward 2

Allendale NA

**BCD-CDC** 

Chicot NA

Cloverdale NA

Fair Park Residents Association

Forest Hills NA McClellan NA

Midway NA

**OUR NA** 

Santa Monica NA

Upper Baseline NA

Wakefield NA

War Memorial NA

Windamere NA

#### Ward 3

Briarwood NA

Capitol View Stiff Station NA

Country Club Heights NA

Evergreen NA

Forest Park NA

Hall High NA

Heights NA

Hillcrest Residents Association

Kingwood NA Merriwether NA

Normandy Shannon POA

Overlook POA

Prospect Terrace Association Inc

River Ridge POA Robinwood POA Sherrill Heights NA South Normandy POA

#### Ward 4

Andover Square Residents Association Colony West Home Owners Association

Echo Valley POA

Foreman Lake Preservation Society

Leawood Garden Club

Pankey Community Improvement Association

Piedmont NA

Pinnacle NA Pleasant Forest NA

Pleasant Valley POA

Rainwood Cove NA

River Valley POAs Inc

Santa Fe Heights NA

Secluded Hills POA

Sturbridge POA

Treasure Hill POA

Walnut Valley POA

Walton Heights/Candlewood POA

Westbury NA Wingate POA Ward 5

Aberdeen Court POA

The Arbors POA

Bascom Place POA, Inc

Bayonne Place POA

**Bronte Court POA** 

Carriage Creek POA

Champagnolle Court POA

Chenal Ridge POA

Chevaux Court POA, Inc.

The Courts POA

Deauville Place POA

Duquesne Place POA

Eagle Pointe POA

The Estates POA

Germay Court POA

Glen Eagles POA

Greystone NA

Hillsborough POA

Hunters Cove POA

Hunters Green POA

Johnson Ranch NA

Margeaux POA

Marlowe Manor POA

Maywood Manor NA

Montagne Court POA

The Oaks POA

Parkway Place POA

Pinnacle NA

Pleasantree Recreation Association

St Charles Community Association

Timber Ridge NA

Tulley Cove NA

The Villages of Wellington

Westchester Heather POA

Witry Court

Woodland Hills Aspen Highlands POA

#### Ward 6

Barrow Action Group

Beverly Hills POA

Birchwood NA

Broadmoor NA

**Broadmoor North Association** 

Broadmoor P.O.A.

Brodie Creek POA

Brownwood Terrace POA

Campus Place POA

Capital Lakes Estates

College Terrace NA

John Barrow NA

Kensington Place POA

Leander NA

North Broadmoor Crime Watch

North Broadmoore NA

Pennbrook / Clover Hill NA

Point O' Woods NA

Sandpiper NA

Spring Valley Manor POA

Sunnymeade NA

Twin Lakes "A" Homeowners Association

Twin Lakes "B" POA

#### Ward 6 continued

Twin Lakes B Special Recreation Improvement District

University Park NA

West Heights Place NA

Westbrook NA

Westwood NA

Woodlands Edge Community Association, Inc

#### Ward 7

Alexander Road NA

Bentley Court POA

Chateaus on Stagecoach

Crystal Valley POA

Deer Meadow NA

Greenwood Acres Homeowners Association

Legion Hut NA

Little North Fork NA

Mavis Circle NA

Meadowcliff Brookwood NA

Meyer Lane NA

Otter Creek Home Owners Association

Oxford Valley Homeowners Association

Pecan Lake POA

Pinedale NA

Plantation Acre POA

Plantation House Home Owners Association

Quail Run NA

Rob Roy Way NA

Rolling Pines NA

Shiloh Home Owners Association

South Brookwood Pondersosa NA

Stagecoach - Dodd NA

Tall Timber Home Owners Association

Town & Country NA

Wedgewood Creek Homeowners Association

West Baseliraine NA

Westfield Home Owners Association

Woodland Ridge POA

Woodridge Estates NA

Yorkwood NA



October 18 - October 20

October 25 - November 1

Special preview - Thursday, October 17, for adults only.

6pm to 9pm every evening

For information call **501-666-2406** or visit **www.littlerockzoo.com** 

### Doggie Paddle Day 2013

Bring your dog(s) for a swim and help benefit the Little Rock Animal Village! All proceeds will be donated to LRAV to help loving animals find their forever homes. (www.littlerockanimalvillage.org)

October 20, 2013, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Jim Dailey Fitness Center Pool (at War Memorial) 300 South Monroe Street, Little Rock

#### Admission: \$10 per dog, \$15 for two dogs

SOME IMPORTANT RULES......

- Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- Only friendly dogs that play well with others should attend.
- Two dogs per human, please.
- Bring your dog's rabies tag.
- No city-defined "dangerous" breeds will be admitted.





## LR Animal Services Offers a Variety of Fostering Options

#### If you save one, you save two!

When you foster animals for the Little Rock Animal Village in your home, you create space for more pets at the shelter. Fostering is the most direct way to help an animal. Whether you live in a house or an apartment, in the city or out in the country, LRAV can find a foster match for you.

Short-Term fostering. Little Rock residents are encouraged to consider participating in the PetSmart Charities Rescue Wagqin' Program. The LRAV has a grant from Petsmart Charities that allows us to send dogs and puppies to other states with low shelter populations. "Rescue Waggin" fosters are generally in your home for less than a week.

If you have training skills (or a desire to learn some) you can take in a dog with a **Trainable** behavior issue such as jumping up, mouthing or food guarding or a cat that is afraid and hides at the back of her cage.

Dogs, in particular, have more confidence when they have skills such as knowing how to sit and walk on a leash. Having these skills also makes them more adoptable.

You can take the animal in for as long as you can before returning it to The Village or you can promote the animal on your own, to help it find a home

Are you the **Nurturing** type? The shelter can be a stressful place, so taking a foster into your home can often speed up the healing process for an animal with a mild infection or one that is recovering from an injury. During the spring and summer we get in hundreds of kittens who aren't old enough to be put up for adoption, but have already weaned.

For more information, contact the Little Rock Animal Village: 501-376-3067.

### LR Fire Station 23 Receives LEED Certification

The City of Little Rock's new Fire Station No. 23, which opened in 2012, made history in 2013 when it became the first fire station in Arkansas to receive LEED Certification.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Ward 5 City Director Lance Hines, City Manager Bruce T. Moore and Fire Chief Gregory Summers joined others to formally receive the certification.

The LEED designation recognizes that the construction and operation of the building are environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The design of the building saves up to 40 percent on water and energy bills versus traditional construction.

Green factors include use of recycled materials in construction, emphasis on natural and low-energy lighting, devices that save water in all faucets.

"It definitely shows that we're committed not only to firefighter safety and their living conditions, but the Fire Department is concerned about the environment as well," Chief Summers said.

"This may be the first Fire Station in Little Rock and Arkansas to be LEED certified," said City Manager Bruce T. Moore. "But it will not be the last.

"As we look at future fire stations in the coming months, LEED certification will be a requirement of the planning," Moore added.



Fire Chief Gregory Summers speaks at the ceremony recognizing the LEED Certification for Fire Station No. 23

### Little Rock named a "Best Town" by OUTSIDE magazine

The City of Little Rock has been named one of *Outside* magazine's Best Towns in 2013. The city was recognized for the Arkansas River Trail, as well as for the River Market. Activities in the City's Riverfront Park were highlighted by the magazine.

Outside also praised the city's economy, calling it one of the most stable in the South.

Other cities which were recognized included Chicago; San Diego; Boston; Washington DC; Minneapolis/St. Paul; Fort Collins CO; Honolulu; Oklahoma City and Ann Arbor.

## LR Police Department Safety Tips

With the recent start of the school year, this is a good time to review tips for school-related safety.

#### Walking Safely

- Never run into the street; when you come to the curb, STOP; then look both ways.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Be sure to cross the street at a marked cross walk or where the crossing guard is.
   Only walk when the signal flashes the walk sign or when a crossing guard says it's okay.
- Walk on the sidewalk, not in the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- If you have to be out in the dark, be sure to put reflective tape on your coat.
- Don't talk to strangers, take anything from them, or go anywhere with them.
- If a stranger approaches you, RUN! Scream! Tell an adult.
- Never take a short cut through the woods or alleys.
- Walk to school with a partner.
- If you see a gun or drugs, stop. Don't touch it. Tell an adult!

#### Car Safety

Make sure that your kids:

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Don't walk between parked cars.
- Look both ways when crossing an alley some drivers don't pay attention when exiting an alley.

Save the Date –
2013 Susan G. Komen Race
for the Cure is October 19.



#### **Bus Safety**

Teach your kids to:

- Wait for the bus in a safe place, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- NOT run into the street in front of or behind the bus.

#### Bike Safety

Teach your kids to:

- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Learn and use the rules of the road stay on the right side of the road and don't swerve in and out of the lane.
- Avoid riding your bike when it is dark or almost dark outside. If you do, be sure to the bike has lights and reflectors.

#### Home Alone and After-School Safety

- Teach your kids not to let anyone know they are home alone. They should never answer the door for strangers.
- Be sure your kids know how to dial 9-1-1 and report a problem.
- Make sure your kids know their name, address, and phone number.
- Make sure your kids have a list of their parents' work and cell phone numbers and at least one other adult they can call in case of an emergency.
- Explain how to lock and unlock all the doors and windows so that no one can get in and so they can leave if necessary.
- Teach your kids to pay attention to the way things look. If something doesn't look right (such as a broken front door), tell them not to go inside, but to go to a safe place and ask for help.

## Parks Department Celebrates Summer Programs

The Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department hosted its inaugural "SUMMER BASH" to celebrate the successful completion of the summer recreation center programming which involved nearly 1,300 children. It included a talent show, featuring students from the eight different locations.

The Summer Bash took place at the Riverfront Park First Security Amphitheater. It was a rainy day, but the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the kids nor of the Parks and Recreation employees.

The event was hosted by former news anchor and current Little Rock School District spokesperson, Pamela Smith. The judges for the talent show were Mark Edwards, Sports Director for KTHV Channel 11, Evangeline Parker of Power 92.3 and Truman Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation.

An art show, featuring the works of the children also took place.

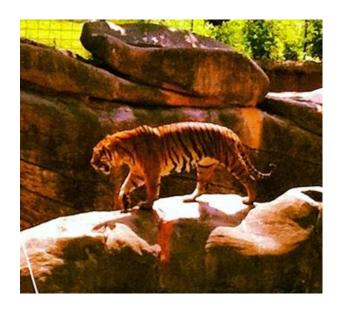
The Summer Playground Program has been serving the youth of Little Rock since its beginning in 1921. The program provides daily summer care for the youth of Little Rock, ensuring that they have a safe, healthy and fun summer.

# **Zoo Opens New Exhibit for Tigers**

This summer the Little Rock Zoo opened a newly expanded Tiger exhibit following \$250,000 worth of construction.

The new exhibit features a new pool and terraced yards for the tigers and allows new space for the Zoo's female tiger, Suhana, to be separated from the male tiger should she give birth to cubs later this year.

The Zoo is also upgrading exhibits for otters and bears in addition to the installation of a new playground area outside of Café Africa.









## LR Marathon Plans an "Epic" race in 2014; Registration open

Little Rock Marathon race officials announced that registration is now open for the 2014 event to be held March 1-2, 2014. The Little Rock Marathon, the Race for Every Pace, is presented by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and benefits Little Rock Parks & Recreation.

Race Weekend events include the 12th annual Little Rock Marathon, the Little Rock Half Marathon,



the Little Rock 10K, the Little Rock 5K Fun Run/Walk, the Little Rockers Kids Marathon and the Little Rock Health & Fitness Expo.

Registration for the Little Rockers Kids Marathon opened on September 1.

Last year's 2013 Marathon was a success with a 15.6% increase in race participation from 2012 and more than 19,000 individuals participating in the various training programs and races.

2013 Mud Run – Little Rock's Dirtiest 5K – set for Saturday, October 26 at 9am at Two Rivers Park. For more information, visit www.mudrun.org.

#### Talk of the Rock

A Newsletter for and about Little Rock Neighborhoods Little Rock City Hall 500 West Markham Little Rock AR 72201